ABSTRACT

[0031]   A computer system comprises at least one computer and at least one storage device coupled together via a network. The computers can store data on and read data from network storage devices. Preferably, the computers encrypt data as part of the transmission protocol. The encrypted data is then sent to the storage device where the packets are parsed and the encrypted data is stored in its encrypted form. When a computer requests data that is stored on the storage device, the storage device retrieves the requested data (which is encrypted) and transmits the encrypted data to the computer that requested the data. The computer then decrypts the encrypted data to recover the original data. Alternatively, the storage device again encrypts the already encrypted data when sending the data back to the requesting computer. The twice encrypted data is then received by the computer and twice decrypted to recover the original data.